

REMARKS

Claims 11-17 and 40-56 stand rejected as being anticipated by the Stellant CT Injection System Operation Manual ("Stellant"). Further, Claims 11-17 and 40-56 stand rejected as being obvious under various combinations of Stellant, US Patent No. 5,472,403 ("Cornacchia"), US Patent No. 5,573,515 ("Wilson"), and US Patent No. 6,917,828 ("Fukuda"). Since Claims 11-17 and 40-56 are cancelled by way of this paper, the corresponding rejections are now moot.

New independent Claim 57 includes features that are not taught or suggested in any of the references, alone or in any combination. For instance, in the method of Claim 57, a first syringe that has been prefilled with contrast media is mounted to a dual head injector. Further, a programmed purge protocol is initiated in which a first drive ram of the injector advances a plunger of the first syringe a first predetermined distance sufficient to purge all air from a first section of Y-tubing that is coupled to the first syringe. Resultantly, the first section of the Y-tubing is filled with contrast media. The protocol also includes a second plunger drive ram of the injector advancing a plunger of a second syringe a second predetermined distance sufficient to purge all air from a second section of the Y-tubing that is coupled to the second syringe.

By comparison, Stellant requires that a user "install" an empty syringe on the injector rather than a syringe prefilled with contrast media (see Stellant at page 3-32, steps 1-4). Further, Stellant requires that the user "expel" any air in the syringe (1) as part of a syringe filling sequence and (2) before connecting Y-tubing to the syringe (as opposed to purging air from a prefilled syringe while the syringe is coupled to Y-tubing and as part of a programmed automatic purge protocol) (see Stellant at page 3-32, steps 5-7). As such, Stellant actually teaches away from Claim 57. Since the other references of record are silent as to the use of a programmed purge protocol and/or how such a protocol would be accomplished, those references fail to cure the defects of Stellant.

In light of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. As such, the Office is respectfully requested to provide written affirmation of the same. Should the Examiner consider issuing any action other than a full notice of allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss prior to issuing such action.

A one-month petition for extension of time is necessary to accompany this communication, authorization to charge a credit card will be provided in the EFS-WEB transmittal.. If any fees are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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